

ST.MARY'S CHURCH
Father Reginald Saldanha-Pastor
 9208 Main Street St. Benedict, KS. 66538

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St. Mary's Church Phone: 785-336-3174. Website: www.stmstb.org

Church's email: stmarys9208@gmail.com Secretary's email: tmhave1991@gmail.com

Bulletin announcements need to be in by Noon on Thursdays.

Secretary in the office only on Thursday from 8:30AM till 1:30PM

Marriage: Contact parish priest 6 months before Baptism: Contact parish priest

DECEMBER 24, 2017-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Unless specified below Mass times are as listed.
ST. BENEDICT---Sunday 10:15AM
Weekday Mass---Tuesday and Fridays at 8:30AM
Confession-Friday from 8:00AM to 8:30AM
BAILEYVILLE---Saturday 6:00PM and Sunday 8:30AM
Weekday Mass--- Wednesday, Thursday 8:30AM
Confession-Saturday from 5:15PM to 5:45PM
 Sundays from 8:00AM to 8:15AM

Sun. Dec. 24-St. Benedict-Mass @ 10:15 AM +Cyril Tangeman

Sun. Dec. 24-St. Benedict-Mass @ 4PM +Alan Stallbaumer

Sun. Dec. 24-Baileyville-Mass @7PM-People of the Parishes

Sun. Dec. 25-Baileyville-Mass @9AM +Loren Deters

Tues.-Dec. 26-St. Benedict-NO MASS

Wed. Dec. 27-Baileyville -NO MASS

Thurs. Dec. 28-Baileyville -NO MASS

Fri. Dec. 29- St. Benedict -NO MASS

Sat. Dec. 30-Baileyville Liv/Dec Sylvester Koch Family

Sun. Dec. 31-Baileyville -People of the Parishes

Sun. Dec. 31-St. Benedict-Mass @ 10:15 AM + Joe & Anita Oswald

Sun. Dec.31-Baileyville -Mass at 6PM-Liv/Dec. Nick Holthaus Family

Mon. Jan 1, 2018-Baileyville-Mass @ 8:30AM- People of the Parishes

Mon. Jan 1, 2018-St. Benedict-Mass @ 10:15AM- Greg & Henrietta Holthaus

COLLECTIONS for December 17, 2017-Total: \$2,122.00.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. REGGIE!-May God bless you in a special way on your 52nd birthday for the love and concern with which you minister to all those entrusted to your care. May your life be filled with Gods good gifts, abundant joy and heavens peace.

REMEMBER Albert Saldanha in your prayers. Sympathy to his brother Father Regie Saldanha and his relatives. May he rest in peace.

REMEMBER Angela Devillier in your prayers. Her funeral was on Dec. 22 at St. Mary's, St. Benedict.. Sympathy to her brother John Haverkamp and her relatives. May she rest in peace.

CHILDREN CHOIR PRACTICE-There will be a children choir practice on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 6PM. Practice with the 3rd thru 8th grades.

CHILDREN CHOIR-Children's Choir will sing on Sunday, Dec. 31 at the 10:15AM Mass. Grades 3rd thru 8th.

Christmas Mass Schedule Eve: (Sunday, December 24)

4:00 pm : St. Mary's, St. Benedict

7:00 pm : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

Christmas Day (Monday, December 25)

9:00 am : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

New Year's Mass Eve: (Sunday, December 31)

6:00 pm : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

New Year Day Mass Schedule: (Monday, January 1)

8:30 am : Sacred Heart, Baileyville

10:15 am : St. Mary's, St. Benedict

NEW YEAR'S EVE SUPPER TICKETS FOR SALE -The tickets are \$15 for either a pork chop or chicken cordon bleu meal and includes a baked potato, salad, roll, and dessert. Hot dog meals are also available for \$5. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Ministries - Dec. 31-Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Cross: Emma Stallbaumer

Servers: John Siess & Ella Sudbeck

Candle Holders: Lavin Stallbaumer & Lily Engelken

Eucharistic Ministers: Duana Huerter, Arlyn Holthaus, Diane Schmitz, Brianna Uphaus, Troy Nordhus

Choir EME: Marsha Korber

Lector 1: Cindy Murphy

Lector 2: Nancy Sudbeck

Ushers: Ken Sudbeck, Kevin Sudbeck, Loren Sudbeck

Offertory: Dennis & Leanna Rottinghaus Family

Rosary: Greg Schmitz

Organist: Marlene Deters

Singers: Grades 3 thru 8th

Money Counters: Evelyn & Mike



Ministries - Jan. 1-Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Cross: Brayden Uphaus

Servers: Katie Tangeman & William Lueger

Candle Holders: Ben Sudbeck & McKenzie Rottinghaus

Eucharistic Ministers: Betty Bergman, Betty Olberding, Don Lueger

Choir EME: Kristina Sudbeck

Lector 1: Connie Huerter

Lector 2: Joanie Holthaus

Ushers: Mark Sudbeck, Matt Sudbeck, Nate Sudbeck

Offertory: Gary & Anita Schmitz Family

Rosary: Don Lueger

Organists: Marilyn Holthaus

Cantor: TBD

Money Counters: Evelyn & Mike

ALTAR SOCIETY EVENTS & NEWS

JAN 2018-(3RD TUESDAY)-CRESTVIEW at 2PM-Karen Holthaus(G), Melanie Lierz, Jenny Heiman, Suzanne Nolte

JAN. 2018-(3RD WEDNESDAY)-LIFE CARE at 2PM-Linda Haug, Deborah Sudbeck, Amy Sudbeck, Amber Sudbeck, Kristen Tangeman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH DATES: Jan.7 & 21, Feb. 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 15 & 29 & May 6.

ALL 2018 FIRST COMMUNION are invited to walk up in the processional on Christmas Eve Mass at 4PM. Please meet in the back of church with Lisa Holthaus before mass. Also, they are invited to bring up offertory gifts at Mass as well. Each child will need to go to the back of church when the ushers begin picking up the collection.

PIANO RECITAL - Russell Ronnebaum, originally from Axtell, will entertain with a piano recital performance on Thursday, December 28 at 6:30PM at St. Michael's Church. There will be a reception to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS: Thank you for the donations made towards the flowers in memory of our loved ones. Those names are: Elmer Lierz, Elmer Deters, Leo & Bertha Weber, Ed & Agnes Holthaus, Joe & Rita Strathman, Liv/Dec. Larry Sudbeck Family, Alan Stallbaumer, Gilbert Koelzer, Arlene Schmitz, Leroy Tangeman, Kevin Tangeman, Greg & Henrietta Holthaus, Lillis Haverkamp, Ed & Ann Ronnebaum, Ardella Ronnebaum Becker, Virgil & Esther Ogle, Rosie Drew, Colette Huerter Barrie Rogers.



HALL & CHURCH is spoken for on these dates for 2017:

Dec. 24-Olberding-Hall

Dec. 25-Scott-Hall

Dec. 30-Sudbeck-Hall

HALL & CHURCH is spoken for on these dates for 2018:

Feb. 2-3-4-Soup Supper

Apr. 8-Altar Society Meeting & Election of Officers

April 1-Scott-Hall

April 14-Huerter Wedding-Church

April 15-First Communion @ St. Benedict

April 21-Rottinghaus & Engelken Wedding-Church

March 25-Easter Egg Hunt-CYO

May 6-May Crowning

May 27-Rottinghaus-Hall

June 9-Hasenkamp & Steinlage Wedding @ 4PM-Church

June 13-Hall Cleaning-No renting of hall until after picnic

June 16-Sudbeck Wedding-Church

June 22-23-24-25-Annual Church Picnic

Aug. 5-Beckman Reunion-Hall

Sept. 1-DeMint & Lemons Wedding-Church

Nov. 22-Scott-Hall

Dec. 8-Rottinghaus_Hall

Dec. 25-Scott-Hall

CHRISTMAS GIFTS IDEAS

DVD'S of THERESA RETTELE'S Tour of St. Mary's Church is available at the Rectory for the cost of \$10.00.

150th ANNIVERSARY BOOKS are still available. The book provides the unique story of St. Mary's Parish from its founding. The family photos are sure to be cherished in decades to come. Copies available for pickup at the Rectory; leave a message at 336-3174 or email to Mary Beth at tmhave1991@gmail.com or stmarys9208@gmail.com, Copies also are available through the Kansas Rural Water Association office located west of Seneca. Your grandchildren or great-grandchildren will appreciate having a copy.

GENEALOGY--The parish has acquired genealogy information on many families of the parish including Bergman, Boeckman, Deters, Engelken, Fangman, Grosser-Holthaus, Haug, Haverkamp, Heiman, Grobe-Holthaus, Holthaus, Huerter, Hulsing, Liening, Lierz, Kramer, Krogman, Mohrman, Olberding, Rethman, Ronnebaum, Rottinghaus, Schmitz, Sextro, Strathman, Strathman B, Stegeman, Sudbeck, Wichman . Suggested donation is \$20.

SCHMITZ HERITAGE BOOK-The John and Mary Schmitz genealogy book is available at St. Mary's parish office for \$10. The money towards this book will be donated to St. Mary's Parish.

REMEMBER those who are sick or taking treatments, hospitalized or still recovering: Brad Bowhay, Monica Olberding Countryman, Laura Schmelzle, Eldon Kriley, Dennis Bergman, Tim Sack, Victor Holthaus, Sara Conroy, Joyce Koch, Kathleen Ronnebaum, Kristi (Mike) Meyer, Vivianne Marousek, Shirley Schmitz, Larry Sudbeck, Jerry Lueger, Eric Holthaus, Frank Hulsing.

P.S. These names will remain on the list for two months, if you want to include the names again please call (336-3174) or email at stmarys9208@gmail.com.

ISO FAMILIES for next year's foreign exchange students—So excited we now have student applications in for the next school year. We are looking for some great American families who are able to invite an international teen into their home for the upcoming school year so they can learn more about our culture, while also sharing their own with you and your family! Hosts provide their student a clean and safe living environment including a bed, meals, and way to/from school. Students come with medical insurance, clothes, phone, money and anything else they may need for the program. If you can help and are interested in selecting a student for the upcoming school year, message Diane Yunghans or my email is DianeySTS@gmail.com.

FROZEN POND—It was near Christmas and Clyde and Sam decided to build an ice skating rink in the middle of their pasture. A shepherd happened to be leading his flock nearby and decided to take a shortcut across the frozen field. But the sheep were afraid of the ice and wouldn't go onto it. The shepherd became frustrated and began tugging them along to the other side.

"Look at that," said Clyde. "That guy's trying to pull the wool over our ice!"

IS SANTA A MAN? How do we really know that Santa is a man? Because no woman would ever wear the same outfit year after year.



MARRIAGE MINUTE – Christmas time is filled with symbols: trees, holly, and of course, the Nativity. But did you know that if you're married, YOU are a sign too? In the Christmas Eve liturgy, the prophet Isaiah tells us, "As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." At Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God does not love us from a distance. He became a baby boy so that he would share all of our joys and sorrows—all our sufferings except sin. As spouses, we proclaim this reality every time we share: • Joy of our spouse's accomplishments • Grief of a loss with our spouse • The weight of an important decision. By entering deeply into our spouse's reality, we shine brightly like the Star of Bethlehem, guiding people to the love of God. Discover more for your marriage at www.JoyfulMarriageProject.com.

THE MOST UNJUST SITUATION—Critics of the pro-life movement often say that pro-lifers are too concerned with one social issue. Similarly, political commentators complain that pro-lifers are obsessed with just one political issue.

However, as Catholics, we must never forget three vitally important facts:(1). All human beings are born "in the image and likeness of Christ" and therefore have innate and invaluable human dignity. (2). Every child created by God is a tremendous gift from God. Moreover, God has a purpose for each and every one of us...and He does not make mistakes! (3). The scale of the abortion issue is simply overwhelming. Each day in America, around 3,500 innocent babies are deprived of their right to life. Pope John Paul II best summed up why abortion is so wrong when he said, "It is difficult to imagine a more unjust situation and it is very difficult to speak of obsession where we are dealing with a fundamental imperative of every good conscience---the defense of the right to life of an innocent and defenseless human being."

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION-

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.



GOD'S PROMISE-The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

YEAR-END GIFTS AND STOCK GIFTS – Gifts mailed or delivered by December 31, will be acknowledged for tax purposes in the 2017 tax year.